

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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production credits don't have anything to do with a gas tax exemption. But be that as it may, I didn't intend to bring that amendment to a vote anyway. I just wanted to get as many further commitments to that idea as might be possible and to refresh the body's memory as to the issue and indicate how very important I think that...the resolution of that problem is. The last amendment, are we on that, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have the last amendment you've given me, yes, sir.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The last amendment I just wanted to talk a little bit about, since I know you enjoy four-forty conversations a lot, but this is really important and it really has to do with perhaps one of the main problems that I have today with what we're doing and that is simply that this bill, to me, is a kind of mopping up operation, a kind of bill to sop up and take care of funds we've already dedicated to a particular purpose and they didn't quite get all used up accidentally, so now we're going to figure out how to use them up and divide it up and give it to everybody and hopefully do some good and be done with it. But it's not a vision of the future with respect to how you promote ethanol, and I think the promotion of ethanol is very important, and I think there are a number of aspects to that problem that government can assist with. I am not sure that we can assist with everything, but I wish we could deal more head-on with some of the obstacles. We had a bill here recently, LB 835, which dealt with obstacles that producers have in terms of cattle and hog buyers, and the way the market is structured, and how you break into that market or keep it a truly competitive fair market. Well, to some extent, the problem with gasohol is the problem of breaking into markets that are controlled by the petroleum people. Obviously, the petroleum people are not particularly interested in assisting with the development of gasohol, and will do everything possible in a structural sense to make that difficult, albeit impossible. The amendment that's in front of you, if sometime you have a moment to read it, has to do with requiring that all gasoline used in Nebraska have an ethanol content, just as one time a long time ago we said that gasoline used in Nebraska would not have the lead content. There are environmental reasons to look favorably upon ethanol. There are petroleum independent reasons to look favorably upon ethanol,